

RECEIVED  
CENTRAL FAX CENTER  
SEP 14 2006

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

1. (Previously Amended) A method of making siRNA *in vitro*, the method comprising the steps of:

recombinantly coexpressing a *Drosophila* Dicer-2 protein with a *Drosophila* R2D2 protein to form a complex comprising the R2D2 protein and the Dicer-2 protein *in vitro*[[.]]; and contacting the complex with a target double-stranded (ds) RNA comprising a predetermined sequence under cell-free, *in vitro* conditions wherein the complex cleaves the dsRNA into siRNA ~~*in vitro*~~.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Original) A method according to claim 1, wherein the Dicer protein and the R2D2 protein are coexpressed using a baculovirus expression system in insect cells selected from the group consisting of S2, Sf9 and Hi5 cells.

4-5. (canceled)